



Parent Advisory Committee to the Superintendent (PACS)
Key Communications

Lauren Bunke & Lorrie Melton (co-chairs)
Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024
District Office, Upper-Level Professional Learning Center (PLC)

Each school has two representatives on this committee.

Welcome and Introductions Co-chairs – Lauren Bunke & Lorrie Melton

Superintendent’s Update - Dr. Baker welcomed everyone to the new District Office and to PACS. We appreciate you volunteering your time and commitment to our schools and district.

- **Purpose of PACS:** You are here likely because you care about your child(ren) and our schools. We will together set the agenda for the school year on topics you would like to learn about. PACS is a great networking opportunity for our parents/guardians, and you may also find other parent volunteer leadership opportunities within the district in the future. If you have specific questions or topics of interest, especially related to your child, this may or may not be the best avenue. We encourage you to ask questions and we will do our best to get you access to any information you are seeking. Our meetings are generally in three parts: introductions/ice breakers, update from the superintendent and a topic to learn more about. PACS is one way we communicate to our families but it’s not the only way. If you are connected to PTA/PTOs, you can feel free to share any info you learn from PACS. You can also share information with your principal and/or more informally with other families.
- **Budget planning for 2025-26:** Dr. Baker shared information about upcoming budget challenges for Bellingham and for all districts across the state as we all plan for the 2025-26 school year. We are hopeful that the state will increase funding levels to help fill gaps. Dr. Baker shared “the big three” ([funding priorities being shared widely across the state](#)), which are special education; pupil transportation; and materials, supplies and operating costs. School funding is the responsibility of our state legislature. Dr. Baker answered questions about budget. Some parents shared that they want to connect with local lawmakers and ask them to fully fund education. You can see [Dr. Baker’s slidedeck here](#) and [additional resources](#).
- **Great Start to the Year:** Dr. Baker showed photos of recent events, dances and recognitions and profiles of staff.

Creating the Agenda for the Year

Parents/guardians split into groups and shared ideas/feedback on the prompts below. After the four groups circulated once around the room, everyone was encouraged to return to each station and mark 1-2 ideas with a checkmark as way to vote on topics that most interested them. The PACS co-chairs will work with Dr. Baker and his team to analyze the results and plan topics for the year.



- What district information would you like to bring back to your school?
- What is a question you've always wanted to ask about Bellingham Public Schools?
- What do you hope to learn from PACS and the district leadership?
- What are your hopes for your child's school experience in the coming years? Are there specific changes you'd like to see?

Future meetings: Dec. 12, Feb. 13, March 13, April 17, May 15